

Message Text

SECRET

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42

ACTION EUR-25

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R 231031 MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8812

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

S E C R E T BELGRADE 1341

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, YO

SUBJECT: TITO'S HEALTH

1. CZECH EMBASSY OFFICIAL TOLD DCM THAT EFFORTS PIN DOWN TITO VISIT TO PRAGUE (RETURNING LAST YEAR'S HUSAK VISIT) UNSUCCESSFUL BECAUSE OF LINGERING QUESTION OF TITO'S HEALTH. INFORMATION REACHING CZECHS INDICATES THAT, ALTHOUGH EFFORTS ARE MADE PROJECT TITO AS HALE AND HEARTY ON TV AS WELL AS IN CONTACTS WITH DIPLOMAT AND OTHERS, HE HAS PERIODIC PROBLEMS WITH PARALYSIS OF LEFT SIDE. PARALYSIS CAN BE IMPROVED TEMPORARILY BY MASSAGE BUT OCCASIONALLY IMPEDES USE OF HIS LEFT ARM AND AT TIME PRODUCES SLACKNESS IN LEFT SIDE OF HIS FACE. CZECHS UNDERSTAND TITO'S DOCTORS FEEL THAT BEST COURSE FOR HIM PSYCHOLOGICALLY AND PHYSICALLY IS TO RESUME "NORMAL SCHEDULE". HOWEVER, WHEN THEY MAY PERMIT HIM TO UNDERTAKE TIRING TRIPS OUTSIDE COUNTRY IS ANOTHER QUESTION.

2. COMMENT: AT THIS POINT, TITO'S "NORMAL SCHEDULE" SEEMS TO INVOLVE RECEIVING MORE VISITORS THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE LAST SPRING. MUCH OF THIS STEMS FROM NEED FOR DECISIONS ON APPOINTMENTS TO TOP GOVERNMENT AND PARTY POSTS WITHIN NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. GIVEN PRESSURES OF PARTY CONGRESS AND OTHER DOMESTIC EVENTS, TITO'S DOCTORS MAY WELL FEEL THAT FOREIGN TRAVEL SCHEDULE SHOULD BE KEPT EXTREMELY LIGHT FOR NEXT FEW MONTHS.
TOON

SECRET

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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